

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-20 and 22-51 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 20, 23, 30, 32, and 47-51 have been amended. No claims are canceled or added. Hence, claims 1-20 and 22-51 remain pending.

Claims 30-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1-20 and 22-51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0099607 (“Sosa”), U.S. Patent No. 6,690,779 (“Walker”), and U.S. Patent No. 7,287,009 (“Liebermann”).

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Amendments

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to include additional recitations. These amendments are supported throughout the specification, for example, at paragraphs 35 and 50. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 20

Claim 20 has been amended to include additional recitations. These amendments are supported throughout the specification, for example, at paragraphs 33, 73, 79, and 89. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 23

Claim 23 has been amended to include additional recitations. These amendments are supported throughout the specification, for example, at paragraph 73. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 30

Claim 30 has been amended to include additional recitations. These amendments are supported throughout the specification, for example, at paragraph 94 and figures 2A & 2B. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 47

Claim 47 has been amended to include additional recitations. These amendments are supported throughout the specification, for example, at paragraphs 30 and 35 and figures 2A & 2B. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 48

Claim 48 has been amended to include additional recitations. These amendments are supported throughout the specification, for example, at paragraphs 30 and 35. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 49

Claim 49 has been amended to include additional recitations. These amendments are supported throughout the specification, for example, at paragraph 89. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 50

Claim 50 has been amended to include additional recitations. These amendments are supported throughout the specification, for example, at paragraph 77. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 51

Claim 51 has been amended to include additional recitations. These amendments are supported throughout the specification, for example, at paragraph 77. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Remarks

Claims 30-47 - §101 Rejections

Claims 30-47 stand rejected as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant has amended these claims and now respectfully submits that such rejections are moot. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §101 rejections of these claims.

Claims 1, 20, 23, 30, and 47-51 - §103 Rejections

Claims 1, 20, 23, 30, and 47-51 stand rejected as being obvious over Sosa, Walker, and Liebermann. Applicant has amended these claims to include recitations not believed to be taught or suggest by the cited references. Thus, Sosa, Walker, and Liebermann do not establish a prima facie case of obviousness with respect thereto. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103 rejections of these claims.

Claims 2-19, 22, 24-29, and 31-46 - §103 Rejections

Claims 2-19, 22, 24-29, and 31-46 stand rejected as being obvious over Sosa, Walker, and Liebermann. These claims each depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of claims 1, 20, 23, 30, or 47-51, and are therefore believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from an allowable base claim. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103 rejections of these claims.

CONCLUSION

For at least all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Further, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 20-1430.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

/ Matthew T. Sarles /

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